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from that port to places in the United States or the Philippine Islands:

All vessels on the regular routes between Hongkong and United States ports are required to undergo, while empty, sulphur fumigation every 6 months.

All vessels dry docking in Hongkong are fumigated after leaving the dock.

All occasional or tramp vessels calling at Hongkong from any port in China must be fumigated before a bill of health is granted.

During the past year many of the vessels have been disinfected at San Francisco, and when this was done, and a certificate from the medical officer of the service produced, the fumigation was waived at Hongkong.

The Nippon Yusen Kaisha, a Japanese line plying regularly between Hongkong and Seattle, require their vessels to be fumigated on every trip, i. e., about once in 3 months. This is the company's regulation, but this office is requested to supervise it.

There are 3 steamship lines running vessels from Japan to Australia via Hongkong and Manila, and these vessels are fumigated each trip, either in Japan or Australia, as is required by the Australian government.

One line of vessels, the Arthur Holt Steamship Company, plies between England and Seattle via the Malay Straits and China and Japan. All of these vessels are fumigated when empty in Liverpool, and always have a certificate of disinfection from the United States consul.

When the systematic fumigation was started about 4 years ago great numbers of rats were killed on every vessel. Now, however, the number found on the regular steamships is very small, showing that the fumigation is effective.

Very few of the vessels go alongside the wharf in Hongkong. This is fortunate, as the usual method of using rat guards on the lines is, in the majority of cases, not efficient.

Report from Swatow—Cholera and plague in vicinity.

Consul Pontius reports, April 17 and 24, and May 1, 8, and 15:

Bubonic plague is increasingly prevalent in the outlying districts. April 24, 5 districts were reported infected, with a total of 200 deaths; May 1, 12 districts, with a total of 1,500 deaths; May 8, a total of 2,000 deaths was reported, with 2 new districts infected; and May 15, 50 deaths were reported in 1 district.

Cholera was reported present, with several deaths, in the vicinity of Swatow May 1.

COSTA RICA.

Report from Limon, fruit port.

Acting Assistant Surgeon Goodman reports:

Week ended June 5. Estimated population, 8,000. General sanitary condition of this port and the surrounding country during the week, good.